move for an additional grant of Rs. 50 under "1—Land Revenue—Cranganur—Service labels" for the same reasons. I request the House to sanction the grant.

Demand put and carried

11. Rs. 1,466 under "1—Land Revenue—Miscellaneous" and 12. Rs. 12,722 under "28—A—Civil Engineering—B.O."

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* Sir, I beg to move for an additional grant of Rs. 1,466 under "1—Land Revenue—Miscellaneous." This is made up of a sum of Rs. 1,230 for 2 safes—one to be supplied to the Ernakulam Treasury and the other for the Trichur Treasury—in connection with the transfer of Treasury work to the Central Bank, and the balance is for shifting the safes and other things and re-arranging them after the work is over.

Mr. President: With regard to items 11 and 12, the supplementary grants relate to expenditure consequent upon the transfer of Treasury work to Central Bank. As there seems to be a lot of misconception about the nature of work, I propose to permit a full discussion of the matter on these grants. The two grants can be discussed together after the Chief Engineer moves the next grant. The Comptroller of Finance and Accounts will give a full explanation as to what actually this means. Hon'ble members can have a full discussion afterwards and satisfy themselves about it.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* Sir, I rise to move for a grant of Rs. 12,722 under "28—A—Civil Engineering—B.O."

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Comptroller of Finance and Accounts):* Sir, it would be useful first to remind the House that the Treasury is an institution which looks after the day to day needs of the Government. It collects the day to day revenue and it makes disbursements on account of Government liabilities. It is not an institution in which the Government keep all their surplus assets. If you look into the budget—the first two pages—you would find on the assets side large deposits among other items. As a matter of fact none of these deposits is kept in the Treasury at all. The Treasury is attending only to the day to day needs of the Government, to put it briefly, *i.e.*, it collects the ordinary revenue and makes the daily disbursements to meet Government demands. For this purpose, the Treasury utilises the cash that is received at the counter from the public or from Government officers, and whenever it finds that that fund is not sufficient to meet the day to day needs, it draws on the Government bankers as and when required. That is the general procedure under which our Treasuries are working.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

And since a high percentage of our current revenue is from customs which we receive in a lump at a particular time of the year, it invariably is the practice and the necessity here to draw upon the bankers from time to time, to meet the day to day requirements. What is proposed to be done by the new arrangement is to hand over the cash branch of the Treasury to the Central Bank of India, Ltd. The Treasury consists of mainly 2 sections—the cash side, *i.e.*, where money is received and paid or in other words the shroffs' work and the other is the account branch. Government are going to maintain in tact their account branch, because Government accounts are in a way distinct from the bank accounts and for our budget purposes and for our general accounting, it is very necessary that we should have our own specialised staff for the work. No bank also will undertake to maintain accounts for us in the way in which we want them, because bank accounting is absolutely different from the Treasury way of doing it and that for several important reasons. Therefore the account branch of the Treasury we are going to keep in tact. That is, the Treasury Officer who is the Samprathy generally in the absence of the Tahsildar, the accountants and such other people are gonig to be retained. The work in the Treasury that is going to be handed over is thus the actual receiving of the day to day cash that comes into the Treasury and the day to day disbursements. The surplus deposits of the Government are not at all touched by the present arrangement. Only the day to day requirements have to be met from the day to day cash. The collection of that revenue and its disbursements are alone going to be entrusted to the bank. When collection is to be made or when disbursement is to be made, the definite rule that the Treasury Officer and the account branch, as they do now, must first of all scrutinise the chalans or the bills and pass them over for receiving or paying monies will be enforced. In other words, that work is not entrusted to the bank. The bank will simply do the work that the shroffs at the moment are doing. At Ernakulam there are 3 shroffs, one on Rs. 40—60 and other two on Rs. 25—40. The work that these 3 people are doing at the counter is going to be handed over to the Central Bank.

The main reason that induced the Government to make this move is, and from my personal experience I can boldly say that what is found is absolutely true—that it may be risky to leave large funds with minor officials. We might be receiving, on the last day of every month when the collections come in, large items on account of land revenue, excise, etc. and the total of these collections may come up to an amount of over one lakh of rupees. Similarly the disbursement on the first day of every month in the Cochin-Kanayannur Treasury generally comes to over one lakh of rupees. On the other days

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Rs. 20,000 or Rs. 25,000 are received and Rs. 30,000 or Rs. 35,000 are disbursed. To meet these day to day disbursements, it is not possible, as I explained before, to rely simply on the day's receipt. Therefore we have to get also a large cash balance. It is found that the Cochin-Kanayannur Treasury Officer generally keeps a balance varying between Rs. 2½ to 3 lakhs in his cash chest. The Treasury Officer at Trichur generally keeps between 2 and 2½ lakhs of rupees. This large cash balance has to be kept with the Treasury Officer and day to day receipts and disbursements have also to be made. On account of the large rush of chalans on the last working day and also on account of the large rush of bills on the first working day it is found that the Treasury has to keep rather late hours also to finally check their cash balance and to close their books. Of course, it is one of the primary rules that the Treasury work should generally be over positively by 5. The receipts and payments should be over by 3 o'clock. It is invariably found that this is hardly possible to be done. Therefore, there is a certain amount of risk that the Government are now taking by keeping these cash balances and also by attending to day to day needs on the cash side. When we hand over to the Central Bank this part of the Treasury work this risk is absolutely off our hands. That is the main and fundamental consideration which has moved the Government to make this arrangement. When making this arrangement with the Central Bank we thought of details that have to be worked out. Now we are keeping Rs. 5½ lakhs every day as cash reserve in the Cochin-Kanayannur Treasury and the Trichur Treasury. The Government are not going to lose anything by deciding that this Rs. 5½ lakhs may be kept with the Cental Bank as cash reserve. On the shroff side we incur monthly an expenditure of very nearly Rs. 180 in the Cochin-Kanayannur Treasury and a little less in the Trichur Treasury. If we make a contribution of Rs. 200 on this account for the next 5 years, we will not be losing anything at all. The work in the Treasury is increasing and we shall have to strengthen the staff from time to time. Therefore, if we make a lump contribution of Rs. 200 for work in the Cochin-Kanayannur Treasury and about Rs. 150 for work in the Trichur Treasury, there also we are not going to lose anything. So, without incurring extra expenditure even to the slightest extent we gain this important advantage of not having to subject ourselves to any risk whatsoever on the cash side in the two important Treasuries at Ernakulam and Trichur. That is the main point that has weighed with the Government in making this proposal.

It might be useful to ask whether there are any disadvantages in making this arrangement. As I explained before, our surplus deposits, our general cash balances, our reserves, all these things are

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

even now with the Government bankers. Even now about Rs. 32 lakhs of fixed deposits are with the Government bankers, and that has been the practice from immemorial times. That position is not in the slightest way affected this side or that side by the present arrangement. Because as I started by saying, the Treasuries look after only the day to day needs of the Government. Therefore there is absolutely no disadvantage whatsoever by giving the shroffs' work of the Treasuries to any bank.

There is also another point to remember. This arrangement is part of a general agreement with the Central Bank as our bankers and therefore in drafting the terms we have now so done it that we will not be having idle money so to say, to that extent to which we were having before. To explain the point further, at present, before the new terms come into force, Rs. 5½ lakhs was tied up in the 2 Treasury chests. Then Rs. 3 lakhs of minimum cash balance had to be kept with the Central Bank, and a total of deposits of Rs. 30 lakhs, of which Rs. 20 lakhs may be in fixed deposits and Rs. 10 lakhs in ordinary current account. When the new terms come into force the position is changed. We will be forced to keep only Rs. 20½ lakhs, of which Rs. 5½ lakhs will be the cash reserves for the 2 Treasuries and Rs. 15 lakhs in fixed deposit. Now this means we will be releasing by the new arrangement Rs. 4½ lakhs which we can invest in better ways. The idea is that the cash balance that is now kept as reserve in the Treasuries becomes also the minimum cash balance that has to be with the Central Bank. Formerly there was this cash balance in the Treasuries as also a separate minimum cash balance with the Central Bank. That separate minimum cash balance is now released.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South):* May I know, Sir, as per the agreement with the Central Bank, is it not the duty of the Bank to meet the demands of the Cochin Government if and when made? From what the hon'ble member has been saying it will appear as if Rs. 3 lakhs which had been kept in the Central Bank as cash balance will be released under the new agreement.

Mr. President: Let the Comptroller finish his speech. I shall try to explain further doubts, if any.

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Comptroller of Finance and Accounts):* So, not only there is no disadvantage but there is this advantage on the purely financial side over and above the point of avoiding all possible risks. Of course, the Central Bank is not bound to show a separate cash balance for the two Treasuries. The idea is that they will give us interest on all our current deposits together minus this cash balance of Rs. 5½ lakhs.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

They will also meet all our demands; whatever be the number of bills that are presented on account of Government work in the two Treasuries they will have necessary cash to meet them. It is for that purpose that we are giving them a cash balance reserve of Rs. 5½ lakhs in the two Treasuries taken together. Therefore, putting the position in brief, by this arrangement we avoid running risks altogether. And to achieve this we do not incur any extra expenditure. Also our general financial position and our general safety of funds, etc., are not in the least affected by this arrangement. They all stand as they were standing before and yet on the financial side we also stand to gain to this extent, *viz.*, that we will be releasing more than Rs. 4½ lakhs as compared to the previous arrangements for better sorts of investment. Thus this arrangement is in several ways favourable to us.

Lastly, if you look into the details of the additional allotment of Rs. 14,000 and odd you would find that very nearly Rs. 11,000 is for permanent improvements. The present Treasury rooms are old rooms with wooden rafters. They are not fire-proof. This is not a very desirable state of things and therefore about Rs. 8,000 is going to be used to make 2 fire-proof rooms here, one for the use of the Central Bank and one for the Samprathi. Similarly, there will be two fire proof rooms for Trichur also. That is a permanent improvement which we will have to undertake any way. We cannot carry on with this kind of antiquated wooden raftered rooms and keep large cash balances there most of which is in currency notes. Rs. 8,500 is therefore absolutely necessary whether the Central Bank is to take up this work or not. Then very nearly Rs. 3,600 is provided for steel shelves. We stock stamp papers to the value of many thousands of rupees which are in old wooden almirahs. This is very antiquated and if any untoward thing happens, the loss will be something immense. Therefore we are proposing that these papers may also be stocked in steel shelf almirahs in fire-proof rooms.

M.. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South):* May I know, Sir, whether these things in the Treasuries are insured?

Mr. President: No fire insurance company will insure it in the present condition.

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Comptroller of Finance and Accounts):* Out of this Rs. 14,000 therefore, the amount that is going to be used because of the transfer of Treasury work to the Central Bank will be only less than Rs. 1,000. The other amounts are in any way necessary for providing fire-proof rooms and steel almirahs.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South)*: Does the Finance Member want to say that we are going to gain about Rs. 15,000 by way of interest on the sum we are going to release by this new arrangement?

Mr. President: What he meant by interest saving is this. According to the existing arrangement with the Central Bank, we get interest on our current account also. I am not prepared to disclose the exact rate of interest. But for the purpose of our argument we may take it as about 1 per cent. We are bound to keep with them a minimum cash balance of Rs. 3 lakhs. That is one of the conditions which all bankers insist on with regard to current account, even if a private individual goes and opens a current account with the bank. If you invest, say, a sum of Rs. 10,000 in current account, no banker will allow you to withdraw all the money. Like that we have assured the Central Bank that we will keep Rs. 3 lakhs as a minimum balance. That also carries interest. Even though a minimum balance is needed to the extent of Rs. 3 lakhs, what we generally do is, we maintain, on an average, Rs. 10 lakhs in current account, because at any moment we may require a lakh or two. And considering the status of our Government, Rs. 10 lakhs in current account is a very modest figure. So under the existing system what happens is this. We keep 10 lakhs of rupees in the Central Bank as current account. That fetches us 1 per cent interest, which means Rs. 10,000 in a year. Over and above that amount, we are keeping 5½ lakhs of rupees idle in the Trichur and Cochin-Kanayannur Treasuries. Now, what will happen when the Central Bank undertakes the work is that our average balance in current account with them will still continue to be 10 lakhs, of which 5½ lakhs will be free of interest. In other words, instead of Rs. 10,000 every year as interest on the current account, they will be paying us only Rs. 4,500. So, you may say that we are probably losing Rs. 5,500. Under the new arrangement, while we still maintain the balance of ten lakhs we immediately get released the 5½ lakhs which is lying idle in the Treasuries. Suppose I invest it at 3 per cent, I immediately get Rs. 17,500 by way of interest. So, Rs. 17,500 minus Rs. 5,500—the interest that we lose—will give us a net gain of Rs. 12,000. So, even under the new arrangement we get 5½ lakhs released which we can invest.

മിസ്റ്റർ സി. ആർ. ഇയ്യുണ്ണി: കൊച്ചിയെ സംബന്ധിച്ചുള്ള നിലയാണ് ഇവിടെ പറഞ്ഞതു്. സെൻട്രൽബാങ്കിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചുള്ള നില എന്താണെന്നറിഞ്ഞാൽ കൊള്ളാം. 10 ലക്ഷം രൂപായാണ് മെൻറയിൻ ചെയ്യേണ്ടതു്. അതിൽ അഞ്ചര ലക്ഷം രൂപാ പലിശയില്ലാതെയാണ് കൊടുക്കുന്നതു്. ഇങ്ങിനെ അഞ്ചര ലക്ഷം രൂപാ യാതൊരു പലിശയുമില്ലാതെ അവരുടെ കയ്യിൽ വെക്കുവാൻ സാധിക്കുന്നു.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Mr. President: That is an expenditure that we incur now.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South):* I perfectly understand the position. What I say is they are not prepared to undertake the responsibility of paying the shroffs who are now being paid by the Cochin Government. So far as the Central Bank is concerned, they are getting 5½ lakhs of rupees without any sort of interest, let alone the fact that we are keeping 5½ lakhs idle in the Treasury.

Mr. President: Yes, they are getting 5½ lakhs free of interest. Then what follows?

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South):* We do not know whether there are other banks which will take up the same work on more advantageous terms.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Cheruthuruthi):* Sir, I wish to speak a few words on this motion. I have tabled a motion for the omission of this allotment. My purpose in tabling that motion was to ascertain exactly where we stand. The public opinion is really against it; for some reason or other it cannot reconcile itself to the idea of the cash chest of the State being handed over to somebody else to keep and manage, when we have an efficient Government to look after it. That is one view. It may be sentimental. It may be due to a sense of sheer prestige. Probably the information that the public has might be unfounded. What I could gather from the Hon'ble Finance Member is—I do not certainly mean the saving of a few rupees, annas or pies, because it is so very small, when all is said and done it may come to an annual saving of 10 or 15 thousand rupees—that we get ourselves free from the risk that the State is taking with regard to the large amounts entrusted to the care of small officers. I am at once tempted to ask a question whether Government are not—it may be definitely understood that I am not disparaging the position of any bank, I am not questioning the solvency or stability of any particular bank—taking any risk at all in handing over the management of its cash chest to a public limited company over the management of which it has no control?

Mr. President: When you talk of prestige I may say, the Government of India, the Provincial Government of Madras and most of the bigger Indian States have their Treasury transactions through some bank.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Cheruthuruthi):* I am not unaware of those things. If I understand aright, the Reserve Bank is doing the Treasury work of the Government of India. Its management is practically in the hands of the Government. The Government

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

exercise a very high percentage of control over it. Sir, I leave out the question of prestige and small profits. I shall confine myself to the only point that weighed with the Government in taking this decision, namely, the risk that the State was taking in allowing a sum to the extent of 4 or 5½ lakhs or even 10 lakhs of rupees with the small servants of the State.

Mr. President: If you are brushing aside the question of prestige, of course, there is an end of the matter. Now, I understand that the hon'ble member is on the question whether it is wise to undertake the risk of entrusting 5½ lakhs to a private bank over which we have no control. The Comptroller of Finance and Accounts explained that we are not entrusting 5½ lakhs with the bank. Has this been understood?

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Cheruthuruthi):* Yes, Sir. It has been understood. I am attempting to show that there is risk in the new arrangement proposed also. I submit, Sir, that the Governments which have entrusted the Treasury work to banks, have some control or other over them. I spoke about the Reserve Bank of India. The Br. Government have their nominees in the directorate of the Imperial Bank of India. So far as the Central Bank is concerned, there is no such guarantee given to us of its safety. In fact, the Government have absolutely no control over them. It might be said, as the Hon'ble the Diwan-President stated, that we are not advancing any further amount now. But there is a difference, Sir. It was not with the consent of this House that the Central Bank was made the bankers of the Cochin Government.

Mr. President: Therefore, I would like hon'ble members to state whether the policy of the Government in having the Central Bank as their bankers is wise or not.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Cheruthuruthi):* It may or may not be. But one thing is certain. There will be an implied acceptance by this Council of the old arrangement. This Council will be indirectly accepting the responsibility of the large investments already made in the bank by admitting that bank to do the Treasury work.

Mr. President: That responsibility the executive will take up. I am permitting this discussion with a view to enable the House just to understand the position, and, by making this grant, the House does not in the least share the responsibility for entrusting even one rupee with the Central Bank or any other bank. The responsibility for making arrangements for banking facilities of the Government and the lodging of the surplus is the responsibility of the executive which the legislature will never be asked to share. If anything goes wrong, I, as the head of the executive, will take the responsibility.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Cheruthuruthi):* In that event, I do not oppose the motion.

Mr. President: You are not asked in this House to share the responsibility for the banking facilities that we are making.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South):* May I know, Sir, whether at any time the Government have drawn on the current account of the bank to the extent of 10 lakhs for the daily disbursements?

Mr. President: I am not prepared to allow questions to be asked like that. I would now like hon'ble members to speak.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South):* It is only a piece of information that I want. The crux of the problem is that a sum of 10 lakhs of rupees is deposited in current account with the Central Bank.

Mr. President: We do not say that.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South):* The minimum that the Government have undertaken to keep in current deposit is 3 lakhs. But the figure generally stands at 10 lakhs. Now, I want to know whether at any time Government had the necessity to draw more than say 7 lakhs out of this 10 lakhs of rupees, which is kept in current account in the Central Bank.

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Comptroller of Finance and Accounts):* Very much more than 10 lakhs. Several items of receipts are also going into the Central Bank, the Railway Receipts and Customs. It is a current account.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South):* It was stated that generally the figure stands at 10 lakhs in the Central Bank in current account. Of course, there may be other amounts. The average figure will be 10 lakhs. I would like to know whether there is necessity of having 3 lakhs in the Ernakulam Treasury and 2½ lakhs at the Trichur Treasury when there is 10 lakhs or more remaining in current deposit in the Central Bank. Cannot the Treasury Officer draw from the Central Bank?

Mr. President: That is what we do even now. Every week I have been called upon to draw cheques, for 2 or 3 lakhs in favour of the Treasury Officer. As a matter of fact, every time I sign cheques, I feel nervous, because these cheques for such large amounts are drawn in favour of the Samprathies drawing a salary of Rs. 80.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur):* Sir, I would like to express my opinion as regards the history of the policy that is now going to be adopted by the Government. But I am handicapped by the fact that I was not able to hear the Hon'ble the Finance

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Member when he opened his speech. But I have had the advantage of hearing the Diwan-President on the matter. I have come to this conclusion that the only arguments in support of the measure are firstly the risk involved in large amounts being kept idle in the Treasury and secondly the advantages of our being able to release a part of the funds now with the Central Bank for investment in more profitable ways. My submission to this House is that both these arguments are absolutely untenable. As regards the question of risk, my submission to this House is that here we have been having large Treasury balances for the last 50 years and we have been finding that our Government have been able to keep very careful control of the whole funds and there has not been any case of any defalcation on a vast scale necessitating the bringing in the argument of risk. Our position now as regards the control over the Treasury is much more sure in view of the fact that we have got one of the most efficient Police Commissioners in service who, I am positively sure, will be in a position to see that all the vast funds are in the Treasury. I may even argue that it is, really speaking, an insult to that honourable officer. I am prepared to argue that he alone will be able to manage it, without the help of his vast force. It is a puerile argument advanced that because there are 5 lakhs of rupees in the Treasury and there is only an officer drawing Rs. 80, he will not be in a position to attend to the money and see that there are no defalcations. I can understand the position if it is a case where there are absolutely no other precautions. There is the Diwan Peishkar checking, there are the armed forces of the State watching it all round day and night, and with all that, still, if the Government think that the moneys are not properly guarded, the Government might as well say that they are not able to do anything.

Sir, the argument of risk is therefore meaningless.

Then, the other argument is that we will be able to release a large amount entrusted with the Central Bank, for profitable investment. My submission is that the real meaning of that is that for speculative transactions we will have more money. It is quite true that we will be releasing a portion of the fund for more profitable investments. As it is, we do not know what those investments are. We are only given the guarantee that these investments are profitable. We are given at the end of every year some figures. Is it wise for any Government to invest all these amounts in shares and securities which are fluctuating in value. The only method of making profit is to buy these securities when their price is low and selling them when the price goes up. In that way alone can the Government make a profit, and I understood the Diwan-President

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

when he spoke about investing some amounts in securities on higher rate of interest, as an advocate of such a policy. Our amounts are at present invested say at 1 per cent and we can invest them on a higher rate of interest, say 3 per cent. Naturally there will be an advantage of two per cent. That is a self-evident thing; but are such attempts to realise a higher return wise? The whole question for this House to decide is whether this is a wise step. Since this House is not going to have any responsibility on the matter of policy there is a responsibility on the part of the House to inform the Government that this is a very unwise measure. My submission to the House is that this is a grant required for a purpose which is absolutely unwarranted and unnecessary and I hope the House will not sanction the amount.

Mr. President: Since the question of safety and all that has been raised, a confusing issue has been introduced into the whole question. I think I will just explain one or two aspects of the question before further discussion. As I made it plain at the outset, when a Government makes arrangements, as every Government must unless it is an insolvent Government, to lodge its surplus funds with a bank, the responsibility is entirely on the executive, and the legislature is never called upon to share with the executive the responsibility of this administrative act. At the outset I wanted to make it perfectly clear that by the voting of this supplementary grant the House does not in the least take any responsibility for entrusting the surplus funds of the Government in the hands of the Central Bank. That position is made clear. The actual implications have been explained by the Comptroller of Finance and Accounts. We propose to transfer the Treasury work of Ernakulam and Trichur to the Central Bank. We propose to retain the Treasury work of other outlying moffussil areas. The step that we propose to take is in accordance with the universal practice current in all civilised Governments all over the world. Almost every Government has its Treasury work done through some Bank, and we will be falling in line with other Governments by the step that we are taking. As the Hon'ble Finance Member explained, the new proposal does not in the least involve the transfer of additional funds to the Central Bank. As a matter of fact, under the new agreement that is being made with the Central Bank, which is to come into force from the 1st of next month, the obligation to maintain minimum balance has been reduced. Under the old agreement which was in existence for five years and which terminates on the 1st of February, we were bound to keep with the Central Bank both in current account and fixed account not less than 30 lakhs of rupees. Now, under the new agreement, we have reduced our obligation to 20 lakhs. In other

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

words, if there is to be any talk in terms of risk we have reduced the risk that we have been taking. As against 30 lakhs we were bound to keep with them, we are now bound to keep only 20 lakhs. As has been further explained by the Comptroller of Finance and Accounts, the transfer of Treasury work to the Central Bank does not involve the transfer of additional funds, but only involves the permitting of an amount of 5½ lakhs being kept at the Central Bank under current account free of interest. Normally, as was explained a few minutes ago, we keep about 10 lakhs of rupees in current account in the Central Bank, and this 10 lakhs of rupees carries interest round at about 1 per cent. Under the new arrangement 5½ lakhs of our current account will be free of interest. We do not lose anything by this arrangement because already this 5½ lakhs is lying idle in the Treasury. Instead of allowing this 5½ lakhs to lie idle in the Treasury, we are simply allowing the Central Bank to keep it free of interest. And incidentally I may mention, of course, that rupees, annas, pies and interest would appeal to a Chetty. *(Laughter)*. By allowing this 5½ lakhs free of interest, though I lose 1 per cent interest on the current account, I get a surplus of 4½ lakhs which I can easily invest today on Government of India bonds and make Rs. 15,000. Therefore, in making this arrangement I am still on the credit side to the extent of Rs. 10,000 which is not an an insignificant figure for us. That is by the way. I do not in the least justify it on the ground that we are going to make Rs. 10,000 profit. Therefore I want the House to understand clearly that by the new arrangement we are not giving more funds into the hands of the Central Bank than the funds that we are already placing. Our Government is not an insolvent Government. We have got a surplus cash balance. It amounts to over a crore of rupees. As a matter of fact, a fortnight ago, our surplus cash balance was 113 lakhs of rupees, and this is how we have invested them.

In Government securities 47½ lakhs (these are either Government of India securities or Cochin Government securities); in shares and debentures of joint stock companies we have got 3 lakhs of rupees; in the fixed deposit in the Central Bank, 32 lakhs; in current deposit on that date, Rs. 21 lakhs; and in all the Treasuries together 9½ lakhs; thus making a total of Rs. 113 lakhs. When a Government have got these enormous cash balances they must choose some bank or other with whom this money is to be entrusted. As the Finance Member explained, the practice of lodging a portion of our surplus balance in current and fixed deposit in joint stock companies has been in existence in this State for very many years. It is not a new thing that I introduced. We have to make up our minds that we must

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

keep it in some bank or other. Naturally, when the Government examine that question, they ask what is the bank that we can choose; and, consistent with safety, they should keep an eye on the interest that they can earn because it is not a small amount. Obviously, the Imperial Bank of India is the biggest semi-government institution in this country. But the rate of interest that the Imperial Bank will give for fixed deposit is so low that we will be losing an enormous amount by way of interest; and for current account the Imperial Bank does not give any interest at all. So that from the point of view of earning an interest on our surplus balances we had to choose some other bank. And naturally we examined the position of the various joint stock banks in India. The biggest of the Indian concerns next to the Imperial Bank is the Central Bank of India. According to the balance sheet of this Bank for the year 1939—I have not yet got the 1940 balance sheet—the position of the Central Bank is as follows.—They have got a working capital of 36 crores. Their subscribed capital is 3 crores and 36 lakhs of which one crore and 68 lakhs has been paid. It means that over and above 1 crore and 68 lakhs that has been paid up there is a reserved liability of share-holders to an equal amount. They have got a reserve fund of 87 lakhs and they have got deposits to the extent of 30 crores.

And if you look into their statement of assets, you will find that in cash, bullion and short-term deposits with other banks they have got 4 crores and 34 lakhs of rupees. That is all cash, which can be drawn up at a moment's notice, and in gilt-edged securities and debentures, on preference shares they hold 12½ crores of rupees. Now we decided that for our purpose this bank is sufficient. No doubt, even banks of this magnitude might fail. But that is a risk which is incidental to life and which I think we are bound to take. Unless we want to lose interest and keep it in the Imperial Bank or unless we want all this money to be kept in the Treasury itself and trust the Police Commissioner for its safety, we have naturally to take some risk, and I think that the Government of Cochin, in choosing its bankers, have acted in this same way that all prudent and reasonable persons will act in entrusting their money. Therefore, if you entrust this money into the bank as some of you might fear, there is this risk of bank's failure, but, on the other hand, if you keep it in your house there is the risk of removal of it by thieves *(laughter)*. The only way of avoiding all this is to have no money at all! *(laughter)*. So that the Government of Cochin, I think, have taken every reasonable precaution in selecting a bank which from the point of view of assets, liabilities, working capital, investments, being conducted on principles of sound management and can be taken to be sound.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Now it is to this bank that we have already entrusted our surplus money five years ago, so that today we are not doing anything new. In fact, even at the time of making these arrangements with the Central Bank five years ago, I was very anxious that they should undertake this Treasury work also, but the bank refused to do it, because it thought that it is undertaking a tremendous responsiblity. Paying out every day amounts sometimes up to one or one and a half lakhs of rupees, they thought, is a tremendous responsibility to take. Therefore, they refused to take it up. For the last four years I have been persistently at the bank asking them to take up the Treasury work. They refused. Then I thought a time will come when I would force them to take up this work. The time came for renewing the agreement. The agreement was for five years. At the time of renewal I said the agreement will not be renewed unless they took up the Treasury work. Therefore they took up the Treasury work also, not because they wanted it, but because we forced them to take it.

A great deal has been said about the risk that we are now running in the matter of running our Treasuries.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South):* Is there any difference between the Central Bank starting a branch in a particular place and taking upon itself certain responsibilities and undertaking this kind of Treasury work? If they were to start a branch in any particular locality, of course they will have to undertake some risk in the hope of making some profit also. Similarly, in this case also, what is the extra difficulty or danger or risk that the Bank undertakes in saying that it will transact the business of the Treasury?

Mr. President: What is the extra danger you want to know? Why should the Bank undertake a danger?

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South):* It was stated that they were reluctant to take up this work of making collections and remittances.

Mr. President: In terms of rupees, annas and pies they thought that the profits they will make from this transaction is so small that it would not be worth while for them to undertake this responsibility. That is all for them to decide.

It was pointed out that we are keeping on an average 3 lakhs of rupees in the Ernakulam Treasury and 2½ lakhs of rupees in the Trichur Treasury. Now in these two Treasuries we have got two safes, one called the primary safe and the other called the subsidiary safe. The primary safe has got two locks, the key of one of which is

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

kept by the Tahsildar, or in his absence the Sub-Magistrate or the Superintendent of Stamps, and the other is with the officer called Samprathy on a pay of Rs. 70—80. Now out of 3 lakhs of rupees in the Cochin-Kanayannur Treasury these two minor officers between them have got in their custody two lakhs and ninety thousand rupees, in the primary chest. Then in the subsidiary chest we do not keep more than Rs. 10,000. The keys of this chest are with the Samprathy on Rs. 70—80 and the Head Shroff on Rs. 40—60. These two minor officers keep between themselves a maximum balance of Rs. 10,000 in the subsidiary chest. You can therefore realise that Government are always taking a risk in keeping these big amounts in the custody of minor officers like these. But the risk that appeals to me to be more than even this is the way in which cheques are cashed. Almost every week the Diwan is called upon to issue cheques which sometimes run to 3 lakhs of rupees at a time drawn in favour of the Treasury Officer of Cochin-Kanayannur or Treasury Officer, Trichur. The position is that these minor officials are expected to go to the Bank, cash these cheques and carry the amount to the Treasury chest which I think is a very great risk which could be avoided. And we thought by having this arrangement with the Central Bank we will not merely be avoiding this unnecessary risk, but we would be falling also into line with the normal practice of civilised Governments all over the world. From the point of view of public finance again, there is a great deal to be said in favour of this arrangement. Now it is well known that when a contractor wants to cash a bill at a Treasury he has to hand over the bill at 10 or 11 a.m. and then go about the town and transact any other business he has and then to go back to the Treasury at 5 p.m. to take up the money. He will be lucky if he gets money at 5 or 6 p.m. Except when the Diwan wants to cash a bill or the Comptroller of Finance and Accounts or some high officer like that wants to cash a bill, nobody gets a bill cashed in the Treasury in 6 to 7 hours' time. This is a tremendous inconvenience to the public. When this troublesome work is undertaken by the bank these bills and cheques will be cashed there just as in a Bank. A person who goes with a bill would ordinarily get his bill cashed at least within an hour or two. If they do not get that facility they have to complain to the Government and the Government will see that the facility is given.

Then there is the question of surplus staff. I have read in some paper to the effect that very many people are thrown out of employment. It is not so. The men that are to be affected are eight officers in the department of Treasury work and arrangements are already made to absorb these eight men in other departments of

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Government so that not a single officer of Government is thrown out of employment by this arrangement. I hope that every aspect of the question is now fully explained and now the hon'ble members can continue their discussion.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur):* May I know, Sir, when the Central Bank takes up the responsibility of managing the Treasury why should our Government spend money on Shroffs and give them all facilities such as quarters, etc?

Mr. President: That has already been explained. Out of this 14 thousand and odd rupees the only items that are directly spent in connection with the transfer of the Treasury work to the Bank will be approximately Rs. 2,000. They are Rs. 1,230 for purchase of two iron safes, Rs. 348 for fitting up counters and Rs. 236 for contingencies. Except all these items amounting to Rs. 2,000, the other 12,000 and odd rupees is spent to make some structural alterations such as fire-proofing, providing steel cabinets for keeping stamp papers, which we have to undertake, whether we entrust the work to the Bank or not. Therefore, we are not incurring actually these 12,000 and odd rupees in connection with this transfer of Treasury work to the Bank.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur):* If you feel that these amounts were necessary for carrying out these works (fire-proofing, steel cabinets, etc.), you should have provided these in the budget. But the demand did not come at that time. On the other hand it has now been thrust in the shape of a supplementary grant, and that is why I say that it is not necessary.

മിസ്റ്റർ ഇസ്മായിൽ ഹാജി ഈസാ സേട്ട്: മിസ്റ്റർ പ്രസിഡണ്ട്, സർ, ട്രഷറികൾ സെൻട്രൽ ബാങ്കിനെ ഏല്പിക്കുന്നതിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ച് വന്നിട്ടുള്ള ചിലവുകൾക്ക് ഒരു സപ്ലിമെൻററി ഗ്രാൻറ് ആവശ്യപ്പെട്ടിട്ടുള്ളതിനെക്കുറിച്ച് എത്ര വലിയ വാദപ്രതിവാദമാണ് ഇവിടെയുണ്ടായിട്ടുള്ളത്. തൃശ്ശിവപേരൂർ മെമ്പർ പറഞ്ഞതിൽ നിന്നും ഒ ഫ/ഫ ലക്ഷം ഉറുപ്പിക പലിശയില്ലാതെ ബാങ്കിലേക്കുകൊടുക്കണമല്ലൊ എന്ന ഒരു സങ്കടം അദ്ദേഹത്തിനുള്ളതായി മാത്രമെ മനസ്സിലാകുന്നുള്ളൂ. ഒരു നോട്ടത്തിൽ പലിശയില്ലാതെ ഒ ഫ/ഫ ലക്ഷം ഉറുപ്പികയുടെ ഗുണം ബാങ്ക് അനുഭവിക്കുന്നുണ്ടെന്നുള്ളതു ശരിയാണ്. എന്നാൽ ബാങ്ക് പലിശയില്ലാതെ കുറെ പണം അനുഭവിക്കുന്നുണ്ടെങ്കിലും അവർ എത്രത്തോളം ഉത്തരവാദിത്വവും ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടും ആണ് ഏല്ക്കേണ്ടി വരുന്നതു് എന്നകാര്യവും കൂടി നാം ആലോചിക്കണം. ഇങ്ങിനെ ഒരു ലാഭമില്ലാതെ ബാങ്ക് ഇതു ഏല്ക്കുകയാണെങ്കിൽ ബാങ്കിൻറെ ഷെയർഹോൾഡേഴ്സൊ ബോർഡ്ആഫ് ഡയറക്ടേഴ്സൊ കൂലിയില്ലാതെ വേല എന്തിനു ചെയ്യുവാൻ പോകുന്നു എന്നു ആക്ഷേപം പുറപ്പെടുവിച്ചേക്കും. തൃശ്ശിവപേരൂരും എറണാകുളത്തുമുള്ള ട്രഷറികളിൽ പലിശയില്ലാതെ കെട്ടിയിരിപ്പുള്ള സംഖ്യയിൽ ഒ ഫ/ഫ ലക്ഷം ഉറുപ്പിക പലിശയില്ലാതെ ബാങ്ക് ഉപയോഗിക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ട് എന്തൊരു നഷ്ടമാണ് ഗവർമ്മേണ്ടിനുണ്ടാകുന്നതു് എന്നാണ് ഞാൻ ചോദിക്കുന്നതു്.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

പിന്നൊ ഒരു റിസ്ക്കുണ്ട്, അതു ശരിയാണ്. റിസ്ക്കിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചിടത്തോളം പറഞ്ഞതു ശരിതന്നൊയാണ്. വലിയൊരു സംഖ്യ അതായതു് മൂന്നു ലക്ഷം ഉറുപ്പിക ദിവാൻ ഒരു ചെക്കു കൊടുത്താൽ വാങ്ങിക്കൊണ്ടു വരുന്നതു് കേവലം മൂന്നു ഉറുപ്പിക ശമ്പളമുള്ള ഒരാളാണ്.

മിസ്റ്റർ വി. കെ. ഭാസ്കരമേനോൻ: പൊല്ലീസുകമ്പടിയോടു കൂടിയല്ലെ കൊണ്ടുവരുന്നതു്?

മിസ്റ്റർ ഇബ്രാൽ ഹാജി ഈസാ സേട്ട്: പൊല്ലീസ്സുകമ്പടിയുണ്ടെങ്കിലും അതൊരു റിസ്ക്കുതന്നൊയാണ് എന്നു പറയാതെ നിവൃത്തിയില്ല.

മറെറാരുകാര്യം നോക്കുകയാണെങ്കിൽ അഞ്ചു കൊല്ലത്തിന്നു മുമ്പുള്ള എഗ്രിമെൻറ് പ്രകാരം തന്നൊ മൂന്നുറു ലക്ഷം ഉറുപ്പിക ഗവമ്മേണ്ടു ഫിക്സ്ഡ് ഡെപ്പൊസിറ്റായും കറൻറ ഡെപ്പൊസിറ്റായും ബാങ്കിൽ സ്ഥാപിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്. അങ്ങിനെയിരിക്കുമ്പോൾ @ ക/ഛ ലക്ഷം ഉറുപ്പിക കൂടി കൊടുക്കുന്നതു ഒരു റിസ്ക്കാണെന്നു പറയുന്നതു് ശരിയല്ല. ആ എഗ്രിമെൻറ് അവസാനിച്ചതിൻെറ ശേഷം, ഇപ്പോൾ ടന്നറി വക്കും കൂടി അവരെ ഏല്പിച്ച സ്ഥിതിക്കു് ആ വക്കിലുള്ള റിസ്ക്കു് എത്രത്തോളമാണെന്നു പറഞ്ഞാൽ അതൊരു സാരമായിട്ടുള്ള സംഗതിയാണെന്നു വിചാരിക്കേണ്ടതില്ല. എതായാലും ദിവാൻ പ്രസിഡണ്ടു് അവർകൾ ഈ സംഗതിയെപ്പററി വിവരിച്ചു പറഞ്ഞതനുസരിച്ചു ഈ സപ്ളിമെൻററി ഗ്രാൻറ് പാസാക്കുന്നതിനെ ഞാൻ അനുകൂലിക്കുന്നു.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* Sir, I heard with some dismay that the responsibility for keeping all the money is with the executive and that the Diwan himself will be personally responsible.

Mr. President: Not that I would personally meet any loss that might happen *(laughter)*. The responsibility is only in the capacity of the Diwan.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* When the Diwan leaves the State there will be further responsibility on his part for any arrangement that he has made.

Apart from that under section 52 of the Government of Cochin Act the rules relating to monies in force immediately before the commencement of this Act shall continue in force except in so far as the same is altered by or under this Act. Therefore I do not know whether this aspect has struck the Government and whether it is not necessary to pass some measure either by way of Proclamation or, by any other Rule before the change is made—that of course is for the Government to consider.

But regarding all the other points I fully endorse the arrangement that the Government is trying to make or has already made with the Central Bank *(hear, hear)*, to take effect from the first of February. During the old days we have heard many stories as to how monies kept in the Treasuries being disposed of. Many of you

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

were young then and you might not have heard all about it fully. But there were stories floating about all over the place that the Treasury balance at night used to be in the bazaar and was replenished in the morning for Treasury work.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Cheruthuruthi):* Those days are gone.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* Yes. Now they are gone. And now we have got two keys—double keys. But apart from that whenever there is a good change to be made there will be some kind of opposition or some kind of talk about it. I was very pleased to hear that the civilised Government methods must be adopted here also. When the Ferry and Transport Services which run the ferries between Ernakulam and Cochin was started in 1919 I suggested to the then Diwan of Cochin, Sir Vijaya Raghava Chariar, that the kists that they have to pay to the Treasury every month may be paid to the then bankers of the Government, the National Bank of India Ltd., at their branch at Cochin where some of our cash balances were kept at that time and where we had an account also. I suggested that it will be very easy for us to transfer our dues to the Government from that Bank and intimate the fact to the Government. There was a flood of opposition and what for, I did not know. The Diwan said the whole office was up in arms to say that such a change should not be made and he asked me what is to be done. I said if civilised Government methods are to be adopted it is very easy for us and you will get the money; but if you want to be in the forest and do not allow Cochin to progress, do not allow this, and leave it where it is. Then he passed orders in spite of the opposition that the arrangement to pay money into the Bank would be allowed. I am very glad to see that after many years this same arrangement is going to be made in the Central Bank. Now the Government of India as had been already pointed out have been having their Treasury work done in this particular way. British Cochin Treasury work is done by the Sub-Magistrate who is the Treasury Officer also in his court premises and all money to be paid in or to be taken out is drawn from the Imperial Bank even today and that is the arrangement that our Government is going to make here also. Therefore I am very pleased and happy to hear that such an arrangement is coming into force. As far as Mattancheri is concerned when this matter was known to the big merchants there many of them had a sigh of relief that they need not go to the Treasury hereafter. If it is in the bank the facilities that we enjoy will be much more. We can sit in our office and by phoning we can do our business, that is what they said. And so the facilities to the public certainly are very great

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

and are very much appreciated amongst the mercantile community at Mattancheri. Of course, if you have no large dealings in money in rural parts you do not know what are the difficulties. That has been so. They do not see money. There is only chronic indebtedness there. They can't even find money to pay their debts. Therefore how to find little money to pay their indebtedness is their problem there. But people who have had cash transactions are certainly pleased with the arrangement that the Government is making. As regards the financial aspects they have been sufficiently well explained and it is not for me now to enter into them. I have understood the question. I think this arrangement is very advantageous. A question may be asked whether the bank will not prosper? Certainly let them prosper. As regards their position they are our bankers. So let them prosper. It is an indigenous bank and it is our duty to give all kinds of facilities and all kinds of help so that we can have a very good bank in the State with whom both Government and the public can transact. I do not think that they would have come here out of philanthropic motives. They have also come here to make money for their shareholders and also to have the prestige of having their branches all over the place, and to have dealings with the Government. That of course I can perfectly understand. The financial position of the bank has been explained sufficiently well and of course there is a risk as the Diwan-President pointed out of anybody failing. The Arbuthnots failed after a century. Such failures need not be taken into account. Still a number of banks have been encouraged and more and more indigenous banks are opened in Cochin. I do not know the number of banks existing in Cochin at present. Anyway, I feel the move is one that is eminently suited to the times and as far as we are concerned we support the proposition. As regards the grant there is nothing to be said against. We are for the grant.

മിസ്റ്റർ പോപ്പട്ടിലാൽ ഗോവിന്ദലാലൻ: മിസ്റ്റർ പ്രസിഡണ്ട്, സർ, സെൻട്രൽ ബാങ്കിനെ നമ്മുടെ ടൗണികൾ ഏല്പിക്കുന്നതു സംബന്ധിച്ചു് ടൗണി കെട്ടിടത്തിന്നു ചിലമാറ്റങ്ങൾ വരുത്തുന്നതിന്നായി കുറെ സംഖ്യ സപ്ലിമെൻറിഗ്രാൻറായി ആവശ്യപ്പെട്ടിട്ടുള്ളതിനെക്കുറിച്ചു് ഇവിടെ നടന്ന വാദങ്ങളിൽ നിന്നു് എനിക്കു മനസ്സിലായതു് പലിശയില്ലാതെ കുറെ സംഖ്യ ബാങ്കിലേക്കു കൊടുക്കേണ്ടി വരുന്നതിലുള്ള ചില അഭിപ്രായ വ്യത്യാസങ്ങൾ മാത്രമാണു് എന്നാണു്. ബാങ്കുകൾ സാധാരണയായി പണംകൊണ്ടു വ്യവസായം നടത്തുന്നസ്ഥാപനങ്ങളാണു്. ടൗണികളിലും ആ വ്യവസായമാണു നടക്കുന്നതു്. അങ്ങിനെയിരിക്കെ ടൗണികളിലെ പണി ബാങ്കു് ഏറെറടുത്തു നടത്തുന്നതിൽ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസത്തിൽ മുന്നോട്ടുപോകുന്ന നമ്മുടെ രാജ്യത്തെ നേതാക്കന്മാർ അഭിപ്രായവ്യത്യാസം പുറപ്പെടുവിക്കുന്നതിൽ ഞാൻ അത്ഭുതപ്പെടുന്നു. എന്നാൽ ഗവൺമെണ്ടു ഇങ്ങിനെ ചെയ്തതിൽ ഞാൻ ഗവൺമെണ്ടിനെ അഭിനന്ദിക്കുന്നു. മൈസൂർ, ബറോഡ, ഹൈദരബാദ്

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

മുതലായ നാട്ടുരാജ്യങ്ങളിലും ബാങ്കുകളാണ് ട്രഷറി വക്ക് നോക്കുന്നത്. ഇംഗ്ലണ്ടിൽ ബാങ്ക് ഓഫ് ഇംഗ്ലണ്ടും ഇൻഡ്യയിൽ ഇമ്പീരിയൽ ബാങ്കുമാണ് ട്രഷറിവക്കുചെയ്യുന്നത്.

മിസ്റ്റർ എ. ഈച്ചരമേനോൽ : കൊച്ചിയിൽ കൊച്ചിൻ ബാങ്കാണൊ നടത്തുന്നത് ?

മിസ്റ്റർ പോപ്പട്ടലാൽ ഗോവൽദ്നലാലൻ : ഇവിടെ നേരത്തെ ഒരു ബാങ്കുസ്ഥാപിക്കാൻ പരിശ്രമിക്കാത്ത നമ്മുടെ ബുദ്ധിമോശത്തിന്റെ പ്രതിഫലമല്ലെ ഇത് എന്ന് ഞാൻ ചോദിക്കുന്നു.

പിന്നൊ സെൻട്രൽ ബാങ്ക് ഇൻഡ്യയിലുള്ള എല്ലാബാങ്കുകളിലും വെച്ച് ഇമ്പീരിയൽ ബാങ്കിനോട് വളരെ അടുത്തു നിൽക്കുന്ന ഒരു ബാങ്കാണ്. അതിന്റെ സ്ഥിതിയെപ്പറ്റിയൊക്കെ ദിവാൻജി അവർകൾ ഇവിടെ വിസ്തരിച്ചു പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ളതുകൊണ്ട് ഞാൻ കൂടുതൽ പറയണമെന്നു വിചാരിക്കുന്നില്ല. നമ്മുടെ രാജ്യത്തു ഈ ബാങ്കുസ്ഥാപിച്ചു പ്രവർത്തനം തുടങ്ങീട്ടതന്നെ നാലഞ്ചുകൊല്ലം കഴിഞ്ഞു. എന്നിട്ടും അവരുടെ സ്ഥിതിയെപ്പറ്റിയും ബാങ്കിന്റെ സ്വഭാവത്തെപ്പറ്റിയും നാം കേട്ടിട്ടില്ലെന്നു പറഞ്ഞാൽ നാം കാട്ടിൽനിന്നൊ മറ്റൊ ഇറങ്ങി വരുന്നവരാണെന്നു മറ്റുള്ളവർ ധരിക്കും. മുപ്പത്തഞ്ചുകോടി ഉറുപ്പികയിൽ ചിലപ്പോൾ ആ ബാങ്കിൽ ഡെപ്പൊസിറ്റുണ്ട് എന്നു പറഞ്ഞാൽ ആ ബാങ്കിന്റെ സ്ഥിതിയെന്തായിരിക്കും? അപ്പോൾ നമ്മുടെ ട്രഷറിവക്കു അവരെ എല്പിക്കുന്നതു വളരെ നന്നായിരിക്കുമെന്നാണൊ ഞാൻ വിചാരിക്കുന്നത്.

പിന്നൊ ട്രഷറിയിൽ നിന്നു പണം പോയാൽ പൊല്ലീസ്സു കമ്മീഷണർ അതിനു സമാധാനമുണ്ടാക്കുമെന്നു പറഞ്ഞു. പൊല്ലീസ്സുകമ്മീഷണർ ആളെ അന്വേഷിച്ചു പിടിച്ചു തരും. അതു കൊണ്ടുപോയപണം കിട്ടുമൊ? പകൽ സമയത്തുപോലും കമ്മീഷണരുടെയും പൊല്ലീസ്സിന്റെയും മുമ്പിൽവെച്ചു പണം കാണാതായി എന്നുവരാം.

മിസ്റ്റർ വി. കെ. ഭാസ്കരമേനോൻ : അതു നിങ്ങളെപോലെയുള്ള ആൾക്കാർ ഉള്ളിടത്താണ് ഉണ്ടാകുന്നത്.

മിസ്റ്റർ പോപ്പട്ടലാൽ ഗോവൽദ്നലാലൻ : ഞങ്ങളെപ്പോലെയുള്ള ആൾക്കാർ വന്നതിനു ശേഷമാണ് ഇങ്ങിനെയുള്ളസ്ഥിതിയൊക്കെ ഇവിടെയുണ്ടായതു്. അതായതു് ഇവിടെയുള്ളവക്കു ശരിയായി തിന്നുവാനും ജീവിക്കുവാനും മറ്റുമുള്ള സംഗതിയുണ്ടായതു്. മര്യാദയായി നടക്കാൻ ഇനിയും നിങ്ങൾ ഞങ്ങളെ നോക്കിപഠിക്കണം.

ട്രഷറിവക്കു ബാങ്കു നടത്തുന്നപക്ഷം ആരെങ്കിലും പണം നഷ്ടപ്പെടുത്തിയാൽ അതിനു മുഴുവനും പരിഹാരമുണ്ടാക്കി കൊടുക്കേണ്ടതു ബാങ്കാണ്. വളരെ ബിസിനസ്സു നടത്തുന്ന ഒരു ബാങ്കാണിതു്. ഇതു നിസ്സാരമായ ഒരാദായത്തിനു വേണ്ടി എത്രത്തോളം റിസ്കാണ് അവർ എടുക്കുവാൻ പോകുന്നതു്.

മൂന്നു ശതമാനത്തിനു ആദായം കിട്ടുന്നതു് നിസ്സാരമാണെന്നു ഇവിടെ ചിലർ പറയുകയുണ്ടായി. എന്നാൽ ആയിരം ഉറുപ്പികക്കുവേണ്ടി നാം ഗവർമ്മേണ്ടിനോട് ആവശ്യപ്പെട്ടുമ്പോൾ പണമില്ലെന്നവാദമാണ് ഗവർമ്മേണ്ടു പുറപ്പെടുവിക്കാറുപതിവ്. അപ്പോൾ പണമുണ്ടാക്കേണ്ട മാർഗ്ഗം ഉണ്ടാക്കുന്നതിനെ നാം സഹായിക്കയാണ വേണ്ടതു്. എന്നു തന്നെയല്ല ഈ ഏർപ്പാടുകൊണ്ട് പണിയില്ലാതെ നടക്കുന്നവക്കു പണിയും കിട്ടുന്നതാണ്.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

പിന്നെ ട്രഷറിയിൽ പണം അടക്കുന്നതിനു ചെനാലുള്ള ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടിനേയും ഒന്നു ആലോചിക്കണം. മുനിസിപ്പാലിറ്റികളിൽ, പണം അടക്കുവാൻ പോകുന്നതിനു തന്നെ ശിപായികളെ നിയമിക്കേണ്ടി വന്നിട്ടുണ്ടു്. കാലത്തു ട്രഷറിയിൽ പണം അടക്കുവാൻ വന്നാൽ വൈകുന്നേരമെ മടങ്ങി പോകാൻ സാധിക്കയുള്ളു. ട്രഷറികളിൽ പണം അടക്കുവാൻ ചെല്ലുന്നവർക്കു എത്രത്തോളം വിഷമമാണു ഇപ്പോൾ ഉള്ളതെന്നു വിവരിക്കുക സാദ്ധ്യമല്ല. ചിലതൊക്കെ ഇവിടെ പറയാൻതന്നെ കൊള്ളുകയില്ല. ബാങ്കിനെ ഏല്പിക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ടു പബ്ലിക്കിനു ഈ വക വിഷമങ്ങളൊന്നും കൂടാതെ കഴിക്കാം. പബ്ലിക്കിനു സൌകര്യങ്ങൾ ഉണ്ടാക്കുന്നതു ഒരു ഭേദഗതി ചെയ്യുന്നതിൽ ഇത്രത്തോളം അഭിപ്രായ വ്യത്യാസത്തിനു വഴിയുണ്ടോ എന്നു ഞാൻ ചോദിക്കുന്നു. ട്രഷറിയിൽ ഇരിക്കുന്ന ആഭരണങ്ങളും രത്നങ്ങളും ഇവർക്കു കൊടുക്കുന്നില്ല.

ദിവാൻജി അവർകൾ പറയുകയുണ്ടായി പണത്തിന്റെ ഇടപാടിനെപ്പറ്റി ചെട്ടിക്കല്ലാതെ മറ്റാർക്കും അറിഞ്ഞുകൂടെന്നു്. ജനങ്ങൾക്കു് ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടുണ്ടാക്കുന്ന അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ ഈ പ്രവൃത്തിയെ അനുമോദിക്കാതെ അതിനെ ആക്ഷേപിക്കാൻ പുറപ്പെട്ടതു് വളരെ കഷ്ടമാണു്. ഈ വക കാരണങ്ങളാൽ ഗവൺമെണ്ടിന്റെ ഈ പുതിയ പദ്ധതിയെ ഞാൻ അനുകൂലിക്കയാണു ചെയ്യുന്നതു്.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. എസ്സു്. പണിക്കർ : സർ, നമ്മുടെ ട്രഷറികളെല്ലാം സെൻട്രൽ ബാങ്കിനു വിട്ടുകൊടുത്തതിനാൽ വന്നിട്ടുള്ള കൂടുതൽ ചിലവിനുള്ള സപ്ലിമെൻററി ഗ്രാൻറിനെ ചിലർ എതിർത്തിട്ടുണ്ടെങ്കിലും ഇവിടെ പലരും അനുമോദന പ്രസംഗങ്ങളാണു് ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ളതു്. ഇതിൽ എനിക്കു ചില സംഗതികൾ പറയുവാനുണ്ടു്. ഒന്നാമതു ട്രഷറി ഈ ബാങ്കിനു വിട്ടുകൊടുക്കുന്നതു് ആദായത്തെ ഉദ്ദേശിച്ചാണു് എന്നാണു് ഗവൺമെണ്ടിന്റെ ഒരു ന്യായം. ആദായം തീച്ചയായും ഉണ്ടാക്കേണ്ടതുമാണു്. ഗവൺമെണ്ടിനു വേണ്ടി ജനങ്ങളുടെ തെറ്റിദ്ധാരണ നീക്കുവാൻ എന്നാ നിലയിൽ "ഗോമതി" പത്രത്തിൽ എഴുതിയിരുന്ന ഒരു ലേഖനം ഞാൻ വായിക്കയുണ്ടായി. അതിൽ നിസ്സാരന്മാരായ താസിൽദാരന്മാരുടേയും സബ്രജിമാരുടേയും ഷ്റോഫ്മാരുടേയും അധീനത്തിൽ ഏറ്റവും ഭീമമായ ഒരു തുക സൂക്ഷിക്കുന്നതു അപകടകരമാണെന്നും അതുകൊണ്ടാണു് ഗവൺമെണ്ടു ഇങ്ങിനെ പ്രവൃത്തിപ്പാൻ നിർബ്ബന്ധിതമായതു് എന്നും കൂടി പറഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നു. അങ്ങിനെയാണെങ്കിൽ കൊച്ചി രാജ്യത്തു് പല ഡിഫാൽക്കേഷൻ കേസ്സുകൾ ഇതുവരെ ഉണ്ടായിട്ടുണ്ടെങ്കിലും ഈ ട്രഷറികളിൽ ഡിഫാൽക്കേഷൻസ്സു് നടന്നതായി ഞാൻ കണ്ടിട്ടില്ല. പണത്തിനു ഇതുപോലെ സ്വാധീനമൊ കഴിവൊ ഇല്ലാത്ത മറു പല ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെണ്ടുകളിൽ വളരെ ഡിഫാൽക്കേഷൻസ്സുണ്ടായിട്ടുണ്ടു്. എന്നാൽ ട്രഷറിയിൽ വളരെ നിസ്സാരമായ ഒരു കേസ്സു മാത്രമെ ഉണ്ടായതായി അറിയുവാൻ സാധിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളു. അതായതു് ഇരിങ്ങാലക്കുട ട്രഷറിയിൽ നിന്നു ഏറ്റവും നിസ്സാരമായ ഒരു സംഖ്യ അപഹരിച്ചതായി മാത്രമെ കേട്ടിട്ടുള്ളു. ഗവൺമെണ്ടിനു വേണ്ടി ജനങ്ങളുടെ തെറ്റിദ്ധാരണ നീക്കുന്നതിനു് എന്ന വ്യാജേന ഗവൺമെണ്ടിന്റെ പ്രവൃത്തിയെ സാധൂകരിപ്പാൻ എഴുതീട്ടുള്ള ആ ലേഖനത്തിൽ താസിൽദാർമാർ, സബ്രജിമാർ മുതലായവർ നിസ്സാരന്മാരാണെന്നും അവിശ്വസ്ഥരാണെന്നും പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ളതു് ഗവൺമെണ്ടിന്റെ നിലക്കും വിലക്കും അന്തസ്സിനും അനുയോജ്യമാണെന്നു മാത്രമല്ല തീരെ ആക്ഷേപാർഹവുമാണു്.

മിസ്റ്റർ ഇസ്മായിൽ ഹാജി ഈസാ സേട്ട് : ശമ്പളം നിസ്സാരമാണെന്നാണു് പറയുന്നതു് ?

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. എസ്സ്. പണിക്കർ : എന്നാൽ അവക്കു ശമ്പളം വല്ലിപ്പിക്കയല്ലെ വേണ്ടതു് ? നിസ്സാര ശമ്പളക്കാരെ വിശ്വാസമില്ലാത്തതുകൊണ്ടാണു് ഇങ്ങിനെ ചെയ്യുന്നതു് എന്നു പറയുന്നതിൽ ഒരു ന്യായവും ഞാൻ കാണുന്നില്ല. ആദായത്തെ ഉദ്ദേശിച്ചാണു് ഇതു് ചെയ്യുന്നതെങ്കിൽ ആദായമുണ്ടാക്കുന്നതിനായി വ്യയസങ്കോചകരണ കമ്മിറ്റി ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ള ശുപാർശകൾപ്രകാരം ഗവണ്മെണ്ടു് ചെയ്തിട്ടില്ല. പല വലിയ തസ്തികകളും ഗവണ്മെണ്ടു് കമ്മിറ്റി റിപ്പോർട്ടിനെ അവഗണിച്ചുണ്ടാക്കീട്ടുണ്ടു്. പല ചെറിയ ചെറിയ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരെ പുറത്തു കളഞ്ഞു ആദായമുണ്ടാക്കുവാൻ ശ്രമിക്കാതെ ഗവണ്മെണ്ടിന്നും ജനങ്ങൾക്കും അത്യന്താപേക്ഷിതമല്ലാതെ ഓരോ വ്യക്തികൾക്കു വേണ്ടി പ്രത്യേകം സൃഷ്ടിച്ച ഭീമമായ ശമ്പളമുള്ള ഉദ്യോഗങ്ങളെ വേണ്ടെന്നു വെച്ചു ആദായമുണ്ടാക്കുകയാണു് വേണ്ടതു്. പിന്നെ ട്രഷറിയിൽ ബില്ലു മാറാൻ ചെന്നാൽ പല വിധത്തിലുള്ള താമസങ്ങളും ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടുകളും ഉണ്ടാകുന്നു എന്നു ബാലിശമായ വാദം ഒരു ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട മെമ്പർ പുറപ്പെടുവിച്ചതിൽ ഞാൻ അത്ഭുതപ്പെടുന്നു. ട്രഷറിയിൽ ബില്ലു മാറുന്നതിന്നു താമസവും ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടും ഉണ്ടു്. ബാങ്കിൽ അതു ഉണ്ടാകയില്ല എന്നു അദ്ദേഹം ഇവിടെ പറയുകയുണ്ടായി. അതു വളരെ ബിസിനസ്സില്ലാത്ത ബാങ്കിനോടുള്ള പരിചയം കൊണ്ടു പറഞ്ഞതാണെന്നോ ഞാൻ വിചാരിക്കുന്നുള്ളൂ. ട്രഷറിയിൽ ഒരു താലൂക്കിലുള്ള മുഴുവൻ ജോലിയും വരുന്ന സ്ഥിതിക്കു് സ്വല്പം താമസം ഉണ്ടായി എന്നു വരാം. എന്നു തന്നെയല്ല ഈ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ ജാമ്മ്യം കെട്ടിവെച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ആൾക്കാരായതുകൊണ്ടു വളരെ സൂക്ഷിച്ചിട്ടു വേണം പണം കൊടുക്കൽ വാങ്ങൽ ചെയ്യുവാൻ. അതുകൊണ്ടു് കുറച്ചു അസൌകര്യങ്ങൾ ഉണ്ടായാലും അതു് ക്ഷന്തവ്യമാണു്. വിശിഷ്യ ട്രഷറി ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ നമ്മുടെ ശമ്പളക്കാരാകയാൽ ഗവണ്മെണ്ടിനേയും പൌരന്മാരേയും അവർ ഭയപ്പെടുന്നുണ്ടായിരിക്കാം. ബാങ്കു് ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാക്കു ആ ഭയത്തിന്നവകാശവുമില്ലല്ലൊ. പരിഷ്കൃതരാജ്യങ്ങളിലെല്ലാം ബാങ്കുകളേയാണു് ട്രഷറിവക്കു ഏല്പിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതു്. ഇംഗ്ലണ്ടിൽ ബാങ്കു് ഓഫ് ഇംഗ്ലണ്ടാണു് ട്രഷറി വക്കു് ചെയ്യുന്നതു. അതുപോലെ മൈസൂർ, ബറോഡ മുതലായ രാജ്യങ്ങളിലും നടന്നുവരുന്നുണ്ടു്. എന്നാൽ ഇതെല്ലാം അതാതു ഗവണ്മെണ്ടു വക ബാങ്കുകളാണു്. കൊച്ചിയിൽ അങ്ങിനെയുള്ള ഒരു ബാങ്കില്ല. അതുകൊണ്ടാണു് കൊച്ചിക്കു യാതൊരു നിയന്ത്രണാധികാരവും ഇല്ലാത്ത ഒരു വിദേശബാങ്കിനെ ശരണം പ്രാപിക്കേണ്ടിവന്നതു്. കൊച്ചിക്കു നിയന്ത്രണാധികാരമില്ലാത്ത ഒരു ബാങ്കിനെ ഇവിടത്തെ ട്രഷറിവക്കു് ഏല്പിക്കുന്നതു് വളരെ ആലോചിച്ചു ചെയ്യേണ്ട ഒരു പ്രവൃത്തിയാണു്. വളരെ ഗൌരവമേറിയ ഈ സംഗതികാലേ കൂട്ടി തന്നെ പൊതുജന പ്രതിനിധികളാൽ അലങ്കരിക്കപ്പെട്ട ഈ നിയമസഭക്കു അറിവു കൊടുക്കേണ്ടതായിരുന്നു. ഇതൊന്നും കൂടാതെ ആദ്യം തന്നെ ട്രഷറി ബാങ്കിന്നു വിട്ടുകൊടുത്തിട്ടുണ്ടു്. തൻമൂലം ഉണ്ടാവാനിടയുള്ള കുടുതൽ ചിലവിലേക്കു സപ്ലിമെൻററി ഗ്രാൻറു് ആവശ്യപ്പെടുവാൻ ഗവണ്മെണ്ടിന്നു ലജ്ജതോന്നിയില്ലെ ? ആത്മാഭിമാനത്തിന്റെ കണികപോലും ഇതിൽ കാണുന്നില്ല. ഇങ്ങിനെയെല്ലാം ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ളതു് കുറെ കടന്ന പ്രവൃത്തിയായി എന്നു സമ്മതിക്കാതെ നിവൃത്തിയില്ല. നിയമസഭയോടു ആലോചിക്കാതെ നിരുത്തരവാദിത്വത്തോടു കൂടി ചെയ്ത ഒരു പ്രവൃത്തിയാണു് ഇതെന്നു കാരണത്താൽ ഞാൻ ഇതിനെ എതുക്കുന്നു.

മിസ്റ്റർ പോപ്പട്ടലാൽ ഗോവല്ധനലാലൻ : ബാങ്കിൽ ഡെപ്പോസിറ്റ് ഇട്ടിരുന്നില്ലെ ?

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. എസ്സ്. പണിക്കർ : ഉണ്ടായിരിക്കാം. അതുപോലെയാണൊ ടെണ്ടറി തന്നെ എല്ലിച്ചുകൊടുക്കുന്നതു ?

The House rose for lunch at 1-15 p.m. and re-assembled at 2-45 p.m. with M. R. Ry. K. Ayyappan Avl., the Deputy President, in the Chair.

Mr. T. V. Subramania Ayyar *(Nemmara):* Sir, I rise to oppose this motion made by the Member for Engineering. I am sorry I was not in the House when the Hon'ble Finance Member was explaining the position to this House. This motion which ought to have been really moved by the Finance Member has been vicariously moved by the Hon'ble Member for Engineering and what criticism that is offered really belongs to the Finance Department. But by means of some family arrangement as it were *(laughter)* the motion has been moved by the Hon'ble Member for Engineering and of course incidentally he has to share the criticism offered. I was listening with the attention that is due to the explanation by the Hon'ble Diwan-President and I felt that after all there was not much indeed in it that would satisfy an impartial member of this House. The only question is whether the arrangement now being entered into by the Cochin Government with the Central Bank is really one that can be justified under the circumstances at present obtaining here. I must preface by saying at once that I have got a very high opinion about the stability of the Central Bank of India which was started at a time when the whole finances of India were concentrated in the hands of European financial magnates. Under the fostering care of that indomitable spirit and energy characteristic of that great man,—Captian of Finance—I am referring to Sir Pochkana Wala—that institution after its inception has grown strong and straight like one of those marvellous palms—I mean the cocoanut trees, which constitute the characteristic beauty of Malabar. But while paying a deserving tribute to the great financial genius of that late lamented Sir Pochkana Wala, I cannot on that account alone support this motion. It is also true that that banking concern occupies a very prominent position in the banking world of India, and it used to be said, Sir, when the Travancore National and Quilon Bank Ltd., collapsed, that if that great man were alive he would not have allowed such a great indigenous bank to go to ruins like that. It used to be said of him that if he had remained alive he would have helped that institution. He was always on the side of Indian banks and with great courage and ability he was piloting the banking world so far as the Indian banking business was concerned. But apart from all that the question before this House is whether this supplementary grant moved by the

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Hon'ble Member for Engineering should be allowed or not. One thing must be made clear. I am sorry the Hon'ble Diwan-President is not here—the statement made by him that so far as such matters are concerned the executive authority alone takes the responsibility and that the members of this Legislative Council have no voice in it will not bear much scrutiny. If that principle is going to be applied in all the transactions of the Government then I can very well say the functions that we are expected to perform in this House as members of the House will dwindle into nothing and much useful purpose will not be served by our sitting here and criticising the actions of the Government. Whenever an important measure is taken and when it is raised in this House if the executive Government comes and says this is a matter for the reserved half, this is a matter in which the members of the Council have no concern, if that be the position that is to be adopted by this Government, then I say that the position of the members of this House is very little and it is very insignificant indeed. Legally speaking the Diwan-President was perfectly right. Legally speaking I say he was quite right in saying that so far as we are at present constituted we cannot question his action with regard to this particular business; but then it has been said by several others, it has been said at the time of the dissolution of the last Council by the Hon'ble President himself that though some departments alone are transferred "I will so conduct myself as if I am also responsible to the Council". I am only giving the summary of what he spoke at the dissolution of the last Council. On an important matter like this when the finances of the State are to be entrusted to the management of a particular banking concern, to say that the legislature has no voice in it, I say, is something hard indeed.

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Joint Secretary to Government):* The Diwan did not say that the House has no voice in it. He only said that he takes the responsibility for that.

Mr. T. V. Subramania Ayyar *(Nemmara):* May I know the interpretation, Sir, put by the Joint Secretary, on the statement made by the President when he said that he is responsible for that.

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Joint Secretary to Government):* That is about the safety of that investment he is responsible.

Mr. T. V. Subramania Ayyar *(Nemmara):* "He is responsible", means the Government of the day is responsible. Government of the day is responsible for that act. What do you mean by that? I pause for an answer. There is no answer. It only means that the responsibility for this particular act rests with the executive

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Government and nothing more. Will the personnel of the Government be responsible for any loss occurring? Is it an answer for anybody to say that we form the executive authority and we do certain things? Is it the contention of the Hon'ble Joint Secretary or of the Government benches that the reserved half's actions cannot be questioned or debated in the Legislative Council?

Deputy President: The Diwan-President did not say that the House has no voice in the matter. Practically we are having a voice in it now.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South):* He is allowing it, that is all.

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* From what I understood it seems that the responsibility of this action is taken by him as the head of the executive and therefore, even if this grant is given, it would not throw any responsibility upon the Council.

Mr. T. V. Subramania Ayyar *(Nemmara):* That I can follow. What does it mean, Sir? So far as this matter is concerned if you pass this grant no member of this Council will be held responsible for the act *(laughter)*. Or by passing this cut motion none of us will be fixed with the responsibility of this act or the public cannot say that we were party to it.

Mr. Popatlal Goverdhan Lalan *(Commerce and Industry):* No liability on our part.

Mr. T. V. Subramania Ayyar *(Nemmara):* No liability on anybody's part. After all the Government is a corporate institution where responsibility cannot be fixed on a particular person. The whole body politic at the particular time is responsible for the act. If anything goes wrong they can say, "Well in the best interests of the State, *bona fide*, and according to our best knowledge and belief we did that." If Cochin loses I am not responsible, you are not responsible and everybody will go away. Only the State will suffer. That is why I say as representatives of the people of the State we have a responsibility to point out to the Government that when they do a particular act they must consult us so that the opinion of the House may be taken and indirectly the opinion of the whole State may be taken. So barring technicalities and legality of the question, we have every right to point out to the Government the merits and demerits of a particular proposition.

Then again I wish just to point out something else. It has been said that this agreement has been practically entered into now. You are simply putting forth a *fait accompli* before this House and

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

asking us to grant a supplementary grant. For what purpose? For the purpose of implementing a contract already entered into by the Government. This House ought to have been taken into confidence before this proposal ripened into a contract. And the Government ought to have taken the sense of the House before such a measure was undertaken by them and before the agreement with the bank was completed. In any event what I say is, as members of the House we have every right to know everything before Government take an important act and they have got every obligation to consult the House beforehand. And it is no good bringing in a supplementary motion for the grant of additional amount for the purpose of implementing and carrying into effect a contract already entered into between the Cochin Government and the Central Bank of India.

Another point which I wish to bring forward for the consideration of this House is this. This is not a matter of very urgent public importance which has to be rushed through by means of supplementary grant. There was enough time for the Government to include it in the last year's budget if they had already thought of it then. They did not do that. I say this method of bringing motions for additional grants before this House and thereby denying the House by means of a cut motion or otherwise the privilege of criticising the general policy of the Government is not sound on principle. It has been ruled both in this House and elsewhere that on motions for supplementary grants questions of general policy should not be discussed. By bringing a supplementary grant the House is denied the right of questioning the policy. On that ground also I have to oppose this motion.

Then again, Sir, with apologies to the Hon'ble President, he made much of the practice of civilised Governments. I take it even without this contract, and without this arrangement we had a civilised Government. An example was cited by my hon'ble friend Mr. Popatlal about the practice of other Governments, but in his statement with regard to the territories of the Rana of Kutch he was frank enough to admit that there was no bank at all there. The whole business is done by Shroffs. I do not know much about that.

Mr. Popatlal Goverdhan Lalan *(Commerce and Industry):* Just like our old Brahmins doing banking business here.

Mr. T. V. Subramania Ayyar *(Nemmara):* Then reference was made about the Bank of Mysore. In Mysore the Government have got effective control over the Bank of Mysore. In Baroda also

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

the Government have got effective control over their bank. And what is the other example cited, Hyderabad.

Mr. Popatlal Goverdhan Lalan *(Commerce and Industry):* There it is the Imperial Bank and the Central Bank.

Mr. T. V. Subramania Ayyar *(Nemmara):* Hyderabad, we know. The less we speak of it the better for us. I would have told something about Hyderabad, but the S. O. prevents me from going into the merits of the affairs in that State. Anyhow there the work is divided between the Imperial Bank of India and the Central Bank. What is the apportionment of work, *i.e.*, what is the work done by the Imperial Bank of India and the work done by the Central Bank, we do not know. Anyhow the responsibility of the work there is divided between the two banks. There is no meaning in saying that all civilised Governments do this business and on that score we must also take it up. Another point was raised in the course of discussion; that was about the risk attendant upon very petty officers getting a salary of Rs. 80 and 90 handling two or three lakhs of rupees. The risk is so great that we were forced to enter into this contract, that is the argument. I believe all of us might have heard about the fraud in the branch of the Imperial Bank of India at Madras. No institution is perfect in this world. All human institutions are imperfect and the most excellent among them are only an approximation to the ideal, so much so frauds can take place everywhere. Even in our own house-holds, fraud takes place; in banks and Treasuries fraud takes place. A recent instance we can cite is the Imperial Bank fraud case in Madras. Several lakhs were involved. Then there is the P. and O. Bank case which is *sub judice* even now. P. and O. Bank is, I suppose, a much bigger institution than the Central Bank of India. It is an international bank having branches all over the world, efficiently run and controlled by the white Englishmen from London. Nothing can be better managed and controlled. Even there you found fraud and it is to our credit that this petty officer drawing Rs. 70 or 80 has been doing honest business for so many years. I do not wish that for the sake of giving an argument in support of this motion you should cast a slur on the honest and efficient officers of this Government. Arguments there may be strong enough, otherwise; I do not wish that Government should bring forward arguments of this nature, that its own servants cannot be trusted by it, that its own officers cannot have effective control in this matter and so on. On these grounds, Sir, and some more which I do not wish to adduce here, I have to oppose this motion *(laughter)* moved by the Hon'ble Member for Engineering.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South):* I would like to know if the Central Bank becomes insolvent as the Travancore National and Quilon Bank, what would be our position? Will the money that is in the Central Bank here in Cochin, Ernakulam and Trichur would be sufficient to meet the depositor's liability here even if an order is given out by the Court to distribute the assets within the State among the creditors in the State as was done in the case of the Travancore National and Quilon Bank?

Mr. M. Sivarama Menon *(Advocate-General):* According to the present decision of our court in the matter of the liquidation of the Travancore National and Quilon Bank, the assets of the bank within the State are being distributed to the creditors within the State.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South):* May I know whether the Government has considered that aspect of the question before they entered into this contract?

Mr. M. Sivarama Menon *(Advocate-General):* As far as this is concerned there is only the instance of the Travancore National and Quilon Bank. I know as a matter of fact that there is a move for having an equal distribution of the available assets remaining undistributed among all the creditors in India. But all these matters raise broad questions which really pertain to the jurisdiction of courts of law. They do not really arise unless there is an apprehension.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South):* Suppose such a contingency arises. What will be our condition?

Mr. M. Sivarama Menon *(Advocate-General):* We need not take into account here the state of the Travancore National and Quilon Bank. There were several forces at work in different parts. In Colombo they have already distributed all the assets. The Quilon Court has also ordered a rateable distribution and there was some decision by the Madras High Court also. There was no absolute occasion for a uniform practice to be followed in all courts as regards the matter of distributing the dividends. The Governments in the respective jurisdiction took suitable action they deemed fit and here also our courts ordered for the distribution of the dividends. But now a requisition is come, our Government has also agreed to hand over the undistributed amount for equal distribution.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* Almost all the money here is distributed.

Mr. M. Sivarama Menon *(Advocate-General):* There is some more money to be collected. Then again a further call has to

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

be made upon the shareholders to the extent of the remaining share liability, so that there will be much money forthcoming from this State.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South):* The point is whether Cochin Government has done anything to secure the money we are going to deposit in this Bank?

Mr. M. Sivarama Menon *(Advocate-General):* That should form the subject-matter of a decision by a court of law and we cannot in any way take any such action as to give a guarantee here as to what the courts in British India would decide. Such a contingency which is anticipated by the hon'ble member has never been in the minds of the Government. Government feel such a thing would never happen. Of course there will be nothing impossible in the world. But there is only a small margin of such a contingency arising. That is why the Diwan-President was pleased this morning to give the House the status of this bank by giving facts and figures.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* What about the 40 lakhs of rupees that is deposited in the bank?

Mr. M. Sivarama Menon *(Advocate-General):* To anticipate such a contingency is impossible.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi):* May I know whether the Hon'ble Minister was consulted before the Government entered into an agreement with the Central Bank?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* I cannot find funds for my own Departments. *(Laughter).*

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Comptroller of Finance and Accounts):* Sir, Government have fully explained their position. I made a fairly detailed statement. The Diwan-President also made a very clear and very lucid statement and I thought all the doubts have been fully cleared. From Mr. Subramania Ayyar's speech, apart from the constitutional questions that have been raised, the only point that I find worth noting is that we have been casting a slur on the present Treasury officers. Far from it. They are very hardworking people and they have been doing very hard work and they had also to work sometimes overtime and their work has been quite satisfactory. The thing that we find fault with is the arrangement; the arrangement is not rational; it is not correct. It is one thing to work an irrational and incorrect arrangement and it is a different thing to work a rational and correct arrangement. We are going from an irrational, unwieldy, and unsafe arrangement to one which is correct, rational and safe. And in that we have the support of the other sister Governments in India. In carrying out this duty

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

we are not in the slightest degree casting a slur on any of our loyal and hard worked officers.

*__Dr. A. R. Menon__ *(Minister for Rural Development):* Sir, A question has been put to me by Mr. Moothedan whether I was consulted in this matter. Of course, it does not form part of my portfolio; yet it is only fair to add that when there were some rumours about the hostile criticism about this arrangement, the Diwan took me into his confidence and explained to me the implications of this arrangement. I have explained to the Diwan also that out of 100 the criticism of about 90 people may be the result of any inadequate appreciation or want of knowledge of the changes proposed to be effected by the Government, and that it would be in the public interest that the matter should be explained either by means of a note or by taking advantage of the Council Session so that many criticisms which are based upon an imperfect knowledge can be got over.

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Pazhayannur):* Was it before taking the decision ?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* No. After that. When I noticed there were honest criticisms based upon honest convictions that the change was not a proper one, I thought it my duty to present this aspect to the Diwan, and the Diwan actually was surprised, and he told me he was very much surprised that a change which in his opinion is certainly to the benefit of the State should have been misunderstood by our people. He said that he fully agreed with me that the position should be properly and clearly explained to the Council. That is all the responsibility I have taken in this matter. Now whether we have gained or lost is, after all, not of much consequence in this question as has been already very clearly explained by the Diwan, and I do not think that I can improve the position by traversing over the same grounds. So I shall not propose to do so.

I believe there is some force in the criticism of Mr. Panicker supported by the hon'ble member for Nemmara that it would have been much better that this question was brought to the Council before action was taken. It is not a question whether the responsibility rests with the executive for the decision or for the Legislative Council. Even granting that the responsibility rests with the executive, yet I do not think anything is lost by consulting the Council or placing this matter before the Council at the meeting. But I found out when this matter was explained that this thing was going on for the last 4 and a half years. Apart from the arrangements there are two things. There is the

* Speech not corrected by the hon'ble member.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

question of security. As has been pointed out, even the best banks may collapse. Therefore naturally as one who has not got much experience in monetary transactions of this kind—I cannot but admit of my ignorance in this matter—the first question I asked was about the security of transferring this amount to the bank. Then of course naturally from the list of the banks I found that this bank stands second in India. After the Imperial Bank of India with its huge deposits from the British Government, this bank stands the foremost. That is certainly an assurance of safety and security. Further, I found out one thing. If it is a question of security, Government have been running in a state of insecurity for the last four and odd years. By this change no additional insecurity is brought about. If there is insecurity there, it was existing there for the last 4 years. Now when we confine our attention to the discussion of this subject alone, the question of security does not arise in the sense that there is no more insecurity by these changes than the insecurity that we have been running through for the last four and a half years. I hope I have made myself clear to the House. I confess to this House that I was under the impression that all the monies of the Government are deposited in the Treasury. Because I see generally the Treasury is guarded by armed force, bayonets and guns and other paraphernalia. When I saw all those things I was under the impression that all these monies were deposited in the vault—in the Treasury. When it was pointed out I thought I was entirely mistaken. I have only to take the existing facts. Then a question again was raised by Mr. Subramania Ayyar. In the case of Mysore and Baroda, it is the Mysore Bank and the Baroda Bank that run this business. I can see the force of this argument but the difficulty here now is that there is no such bank and no attempt, as far as I know, has been made for the establishment of such a bank. There was some attempt a few years ago to start such a bank. But no concerted effort has been made to establish a bank of this kind.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon *(Chittur-Rural):* There was a committee working under Doraswamy Ayyar.

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* But nothing tangible came out of that. Nothing prevents you in starting such a concern, because the present agreement lasts only for a period of five years. The starting of such a bank will take at least one or two years. Therefore you have got ample time for the consideration of the establishment of a bank of that kind within these five years. But the question now before the House is, should you or should you not extend this grant applied for by the Chief Engineer. The point

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

raised by those who opposed this motion is that by granting this demand we are in a way directly sharing the responsibility for the change effected. It is no answer to the charge that the Diwan said in the Council that as the Head of the Administration he and he alone must take the moral responsibility for the safety of these deposits and your voting or not voting would not affect that position. By your voting you are not going to bear a partial responsibility for the change. Therefore I am at one with you in thinking that this Council has a right to know this before the actual contract is entered into. But as regards the other matter, namely whether the Council by granting this shall take a divided responsibility for this change, I say, since it is done without consulting you, the responsibility must be taken by the executive itself and the executive comes forward only for some temporary arrangement to safeguard the records and monies of Government. Now I am asking this House this question, while I entirely agree with the wider issue, I am asking, after all whether on this small question of allowing this grant you are justified in with-holding it. I do not think that in the name of that very wider issue raised, in the name of that constitutional position that you raised, you should treat this small thing for an adverse vote. That is the position. Nothing prevents this House to move an adjournment motion on the same issue and to call in question the action of the Government. But is it proper for the sake of that wider and bigger issue that you should deprive this small amount to the Chief Engineer?

Mr. M. K. Devassy *(Adur):* Because it is the only form in which it has come before the Council.

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* You could bring it in a proper form and raise a debate upon that specific issue. But instead of raising that specific issue I do not think it proper that on a smaller issue like this a vote should be recorded against Government.

I am not going to question Mr. Subramania Ayyar's point which he raised. That is a question which has to be considered whether the Legislative Council should or should not have a voice in making fundamental changes of administration or the method of administration. I perfectly agree that it is an issue, an important issue, a wider issue and an issue, which deserves special debate. On this small issue let us confine ourselves and record our vote. Let us face the issue properly. These are some of the few observations I wish to place before the House and I trust that this House will consider the case as presented before them and they would be good

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

enough not to carry their opposition to the length of voting against the grant.

*മിസ്റ്റർ ടി. കെ. നായർ: ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട മന്ത്രി സംസാരിച്ചതിനുശേഷമാണു് രണ്ടു വാക്കു് എനിക്കും ഇവിടെ സംസാരിക്കണമെന്നു തോന്നിയതു്. അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ അഭിപ്രായത്തോടടുക്കുടി ഞാൻ യോജിക്കുന്നുണ്ടെങ്കിലും ഒടുവിൽ പറഞ്ഞ ഒരു സംഗതിയിൽ മാത്രമേ എനിക്കു എതിരുള്ളു. നമുക്കു് ഈ വിഷയത്തെപ്പറ്റി സംസാരിക്കുവാൻ ഇനിയൊരു അവസരം കിട്ടുകയില്ല. ഇതിനു് ഒരു അഡ്ജേൺമെൻറു് മോഷൻ കൊണ്ടുവരണമെങ്കിൽ അതിനുള്ള അവസരവും ഇതായിരുന്നു. ആ അവസരം കഴിഞ്ഞുപോയി. ഇതിനു മുമ്പൊരവസരത്തിൽ പണക്കാരായ രോഗികളുടെ പക്കൽനിന്നും പണം വാങ്ങിക്കണമെന്നുള്ള കാര്യത്തിൽ പൊതുജനങ്ങളുടെ മനസ്ഥിതി അറിയുവാൻവേണ്ടി അന്നത്തെ ചീഫ് മെഡിക്കലാഫീസർ ഒരു നിശ്ചയം ഇവിടെ അവതരിപ്പിച്ചതു് ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട മന്ത്രി ആലോചിക്കണം. അതുപോലെതന്നെ എയിഡഡ് സ്കൂളുകളിലെ മാസ്റ്റർമാക്കു കൊടുക്കുന്ന ഗ്രാൻറു് നേരിട്ടു കൊടുക്കണമെന്നുള്ള കാര്യത്തിൽ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസ ഡയറക്ടരവർകൾ ഒരു പ്രമേയം അവതരിപ്പിച്ചതും മന്ത്രി അവർകൾ ഓർക്കുന്നുണ്ടായിരിക്കണം. അങ്ങിനെയിരിക്കെ എന്റെ അഭിപ്രായത്തിൽ ഏറ്റവും ഗൌരവമേറിയതായ ഈ സംഗതിയിൽ ഗവമ്മെണ്ടു ഒരു പ്രമേയം അവതരിപ്പിക്കുകയോ ഈ സഭയുടെ അഭിപ്രായം അറിയുകയോ യാതൊന്നുംതന്നെ ചെയ്തിട്ടില്ല. ഇങ്ങിനെയുള്ള സംഗതിയിൽ എന്തുകൊണ്ടു ഒരു പ്രമേയം അവതരിപ്പിച്ചു ഈ സഭയുടെ അഭിപ്രായം അറിഞ്ഞുക്കൂടാ എന്നു ഞാൻ ചോദിക്കുന്നു. അങ്ങിനെയുള്ള ഗവമ്മെണ്ടിന്റെ മനസ്ഥിതിയെയാണു് ഞങ്ങൾ എതിർക്കുന്നതു്. ഞങ്ങൾ ഇവിടെ ഇരിക്കുന്നതു് ന്യായമായുള്ള ഞങ്ങളുടെ അധികാരം തന്നില്ലെങ്കിൽ തട്ടിപ്പറിച്ചു വാങ്ങിക്കുവാനാണു്. അതു ഗവമ്മെണ്ടിനും അറിയാമെന്നു ഞാൻ വിശ്വസിക്കുന്നു. എല്ലാ അനുദ്യോഗസ്ഥ സാമാജികന്മാരും അതു ധരിച്ചുകൊണ്ടാണു് ഇവിടെ ഇരിക്കുന്നതു്. ഒരു ലേശമെങ്കിലും കിട്ടിയതു ഞങ്ങൾ ഉപേക്ഷിക്കുകയുമില്ല, കിട്ടാവുന്നതു വാങ്ങാതെ വിട്ടുകളയുകയുമില്ല. ആ നിലയിൽനിന്നു് ഗവമ്മെണ്ടുതന്നെ പിന്നോക്കം പോകുന്ന അവസരത്തിൽ ഞങ്ങൾക്കു പിരിക്കേണ്ടതായ ഒരു ചുമതലയുണ്ടു്. അതുകൊണ്ടു ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട മന്ത്രിയുടെ ഉപദേശത്തെ ഞങ്ങൾ വിലവെക്കുന്നില്ലെന്നുള്ള കുറ്റം അദ്ദേഹം ഞങ്ങളുടെ തലയിൽ ആരോപിക്കരുതെന്നപേക്ഷയുണ്ടു്. ഈ ഒരു അവസരമല്ലാതെ ഞങ്ങളുടെ മനസ്ഥിതിയെ വെളിവാക്കുവാനുള്ള ഒരു സമയം വേറെയില്ല. സെൻട്രൽ ബാങ്കിന്റെ സെക്യൂരിട്ടികൊണ്ടാണും യാതൊരു പ്രയോജനവുമില്ല. ഇന്നു് അവരെ ഏല്പിച്ചുകൊടുക്കുവാൻ പോകുന്ന സംഖ്യ നമ്മുടെ സർപ്ലസ് അല്ല. നിത്യതവരവുചിലവിനുള്ള സംഖ്യയാണു് അവരെ ഏല്പിക്കുവാൻ പോകുന്നതു്. ഇന്നത്തെ മനസ്ഥിതിയിൽ ഈ രണ്ടു ട്രഷറികളും ഏല്പിച്ചുകൊടുക്കുവാൻ ഉദ്ദേശിച്ചതുപോലെ മറ്റു ട്രഷറികളും അവരെ ഏല്പിക്കുവാനിടയാകും. സെൻട്രൽബാങ്കു് നാളെ ഇൻസാൾവെൻറായിക്കഴിഞ്ഞാൽ നമ്മുടെ നിത്യച്ചിലവിനുള്ള പണമാണു് പോകുന്നതെന്നുള്ളതു് ഗവമ്മെണ്ടു ധരിക്കണം.

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Comptroller of Finance and Accounts):* Sir, without interruption I have to say this much. Not merely the accumulated cash reserves and surpluses are invested in the Central Bank but the day to day receipts are also received by the bank. For example, the sum of over 5 lakhs of rupees which we

* Speech not corrected by the hon'ble member

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

annually receive by way of interest from the S.I.R. on our railway capital is received by them and credited to our accounts. So also about 22 or 24 lakhs of rupees on account of customs is always taken into account there. Similarly large sums of money that we have to receive from outside are always credited in the current account of the Central Bank. Therefore the Central Bank deposits are not merely the invested deposits but as a matter of fact they are also current account deposits. Monies that are receipted into the Treasury are less than the monies received in the current account of the Central Bank year after year. Therefore this is a difficulty if it is a difficulty which will not vanish by simply pointing out that the money that is now in the Central Bank is made up of deposits arising by way of surpluses.

*മിസ്റ്റർ ടി. കെ. നായർ: ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട ഫിനാൻസുമെമ്പറവർകളുടെ ഉപദേശത്തിൽ ഞാൻ അദ്ദേഹത്തോട് നന്ദിപറഞ്ഞുകൊള്ളുന്നു. പക്ഷെ ഞാൻ പറഞ്ഞ പോയിൻറതന്നെയാണ് പിന്നെയും എനിക്കു പറയുവാനുള്ളതു്. സെൻട്രൽ ബാങ്കാണു് നമ്മുടെ ട്രഷറിജോലി നടത്തുന്നതെന്നു വിചാരിക്കുക. നാളെ കാലത്തു് ഫ്രഫ മണിക്കു ബാങ്ക് "ബാങ്ക്ക്ലോസ്ഡ്" എന്നൊരു ബോർഡു അതിൻെറ പുറത്തു കാണാനുവെങ്കിൽ നമ്മുടെ പണം എവിടെ എന്നുള്ള ചോദ്യത്തിനു് നിങ്ങൾ എന്തു മറുപടി പറയുമെന്നാണു ഞാൻ ചോദിക്കുന്നതു്. അതിൽ കസ്റ്റംസു് റെമിറ ചെയ്യുന്നു; റയിൽവേ ഫണ്ടു് റമിറ ചെയ്യുന്നു എന്നൊന്നും പറഞ്ഞിട്ടു കാര്യമില്ല. ബാങ്കു് നാളെ ക്ലോസു് ചെയ്യുകയാണെങ്കിൽ പിന്നെ നിങ്ങളുടെ കയ്യിൽ ഒരു പൈ ബാക്കിയുണ്ടായിരിക്കുമോ? ഇതു് നിസ്സാരമാക്കി തള്ളുവാനുള്ള ഒരു കാര്യമല്ലെന്നുള്ളതു നിങ്ങൾ ധരിക്കണം. അതുകൊണ്ടു് ഈ കാര്യത്തിൽ ഫിനാൻസു മെമ്പർ പറഞ്ഞ മറുപടി മതിയായിട്ടുള്ളതല്ല. ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ സമ്പ്രദായത്തിൽ ട്രഷറി ജോലി നടത്തുന്നതിൽ ക്ലേശകരമായ ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടും ഉണ്ടാകുന്നുണ്ടെങ്കിലും നിത്യച്ചിലവിനുള്ള സംഖ്യ മുട്ടകയില്ലെന്നുള്ളതു തീച്ചയാണു്. റിസർക്കു എടുക്കുക എന്നു ദിവാൻ പ്രസിഡണ്ടു അവർകളും പറയുകയുണ്ടായി. മനുഷ്യരൊക്കെ റിസർക്കു എടുക്കണമെന്നു പറഞ്ഞാൽ ആരെങ്കിലും വാളെടുത്തു വെട്ടിക്കൊല്ലാറുണ്ടോ? ഇതു് മുപ്പതോ നാല്പതോ ലക്ഷത്തിൻെറ എക്സിക്യൂട്ടീവു് അധികാരമാണു്. ഏതു ബാങ്കാണു് സേഫായിട്ടുള്ളതു് എന്നതിനെപ്പറ്റി ദിവാൻ പ്രസിഡണ്ടു പറഞ്ഞ അഭിപ്രായത്തോടു ഞാൻ യോജിക്കുന്നില്ല. ഇന്നേവരെ ഈ കാര്യത്തെപ്പറ്റി ഞങ്ങളോടു ചോദിക്കാതെയിരുന്നിട്ടുള്ളതുതന്നെ ഗവമ്മെണ്ടു ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ള തെറ്റാണു്. ആ ഒരൊറ്റ പോയിൻറു കൊണ്ടാണു് ഞാൻ ഇതിനെ എതിർക്കുന്നതു്, അല്ലാതെ ഉദ്ദ്യോഗസ്ഥകയുടെ കാര്യത്തിലല്ല. ഇതുപോലെ അനവധി എണ്ണം ഈ സഭതള്ളിക്കളഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ളതു് ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട മന്ത്രിക്കുതന്നെ അറിയാം. ഈ നിയമസഭയോടു ആലോചിക്കാതെ പ്രവൃത്തിക്കുവാനും ഇപ്രകാരം പണം ആവശ്യപ്പെടുവാനുമുള്ള ഗവമ്മെണ്ടിൻെറ മനസ്ഥിതി മാറണമെന്നുള്ള അഭിപ്രായത്തോടുകൂടി ഞാൻ ഇതിനെ എതിർക്കുന്നു.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* I rise to offer two suggestions in the matter. One is to see that the Central Bank of India holds

*Speech not corrected by the honb'le member

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

assets in the Cochin State at least equal to its liabilities in this State and secondly every effort should be made to start a Bank of Cochin.

Demand put and carried

13. Rs. 1,075—Under "28—A—Civil Engineering B. R."

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* Sir, I rise to move for an additional allotment of Rs. 1,075 under "28—A—Civil Engineering—B. R.". Early this year in Chingam the Inspector-General of Prisons brought to the Government's notice that certain cells in the Central Jail required urgent repairs. The expanded metal covering of the ventilators of the cells in the Central Jail had gone out of order and required renewal and the iron doors were not touching the door frame at the top. As such, it gave facility for people who had an inclination to commit suicide. The gaps in the door frames had to be closed. Since this expenditure was not provided for in the Budget of 1116 it necessitated calling for additional allotment. I request the House will be pleased to grant this amount.

Demand put and carried

14. Rs. 150—Under "16—A—Law and Justice—Establishment—Temporary"

Mr. M. Sivarama Menon *(Advocate-General):* I beg to move for an additional allotment of Rs. 150 under "16—A—Law and Justice—Establishment—Temporary". One additional clerk has been sanctioned as a temporary measure for one year for the Anjikaimal Government Pleader's Office to clear off old arrears and six months' expenditure has to be provided for in this year's budget. It was not anticipated at the time of the framing of the original budget because it was during the inspection conducted afterwards that the necessity for an additional clerk was disclosed. I request that the House be pleased to grant the amount.

Demand put and carried

15. Rs. 150—Under "16—A—Law and Justice—Copying Charges"

Mr. M. Sivarama Menon *(Advocate-General):* Sir, I beg to move for an additional allotment of Rs. 150 under "16—A—Law and Justice—Copying Charges". This amount is meant for meeting the cost of executing several pauper decrees which have now become ready for execution. The amount provided in this year's budget is insufficient for the purpose. Although the amount is

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly